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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
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Pre-sessional Working Group
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the second periodic report of ALGERIA concerning the rights covered by articles 1 to 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1990/6/Add.26)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Please provide information on measures undertaken by the State party with regard to the Committee's suggestions and recommendations on the initial report of Algeria.

2. To what extent does the State party consider that its policy of national reconciliation has reduced terrorist activity?

3. Please indicate whether there is any case law on the application of the Covenant.

4. Please provide information on whether the decrees ordering the state of emergency in the State party are still in force, and, if so, on the extent to which these decrees are affecting the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in the State party.

5. Paragraph 106 of the report states that, between the second half of the 1980s and 1997, the population growth rate dropped from 2.7 per cent to 1.7 per cent, in a period of 12 years. Please indicate the impact of this decline on the implementation of the Covenant.

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II. ISSUES RELATING TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT (arts.1-5)

Article 1 - Self-determination

6. Please provide information on developments with regard to granting the people of Western Sahara the right to self-determination.

Article 2, paragraph 2 - Non-discrimination

7. What measures have been taken to respond to the demand of the Berber population for recognition of their language as an official language?

8. Please provide information on legal prohibitions of discrimination on the basis of race and religion.

Article 3 - Equal rights of men and women

9. What are the number and the proportion of women in high-level positions in the public service?

III. ISSUES RELATING TO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT (arts.6-15)

Article 6 - The right to work

10. The problem of unemployment has become worse, as recognized in paragraph 61 of the report. Please indicate whether the State party is considering other ways of reducing the current unemployment rate.

Article 7 - The right to just and favourable conditions of work

11. Please explain the basis for determining the minimum wage and whether it is adequate to provide a decent standard of living.

Article 8 - Trade union rights

12. Which sectors or categories of workers are excluded from the right to strike and why?

Article 9 - The right to social security

13. Please describe and provide comparative statistics for the existing system of social security.

14. Is there a government plan for the full or partial privatization of social security?

Article 10 - Protection of the family, mothers and children

15. Please indicate to what extent the practice of female genital mutilation still exists within the State party's territory.

16. Has progress been made on eliminating rules and practices that discriminate against women in the area of family relations, such as the husband's right to keep the matrimonial home in the event of divorce?

17. What is the extent of domestic violence in the State party and are there any specialized centres to provide care for the victims of family violence?

18. Are there programmes to take care of street children?

19. What is the extent of child pornography and prostitution and drug abuse by children and what measures have been adopted to deal with them?

Article 11 - The right to an adequate standard of living

20. Please provide statistics for the last five years on the distribution of income, and on levels of poverty.

21. Please provide further information on measures taken to address the problem of the housing shortage over the last five years, and in particular on whether the plans to build 750,000 dwellings in 2000 were carried out.

22. What is the extent of the illegal occupation of urban buildings and property? Please provide information on the incidence of forced evictions, as well as on legislation providing protection against forced evictions.

Article 12 - The right to health

23. Please provide comparative statistics on the main causes of mortality over the last five years, disaggregated by sex and age.

24. Please provide statistics on the extent of drug abuse and drug trafficking over the last five years.

25. In view of the law authorizing only therapeutic abortion, please provide information on the extent of illegal abortions and the number of persons prosecuted in this connection over the last five years. Please also provide information on protection provided to women who are forced to have illegal abortions.

26. Please provide statistics for recent years on persons living with HIV/AIDS and indicate whether there is a programme for the prevention and control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Articles 13 and 14 - The right to education

27. Please indicate at what levels of education books and school supplies are provided to pupils free of charge.

28. What is the ratio of private schools to public schools at the primary and secondary education levels?

29. How much academic autonomy and freedom do public universities have?

Article 15 - The right to take part in cultural life

30. Is there any State support for ethnic minorities' cultural institutions and activities?

31. Paragraph 180 of the report states that the press has enjoyed greater freedom since 1989. What are the limits of this "greater freedom" and which institutions interpret and regulate the provisions of the Information Code?

32. Are there any private radio and television stations?

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